

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the instant application. Claims 19, 20 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to conform the claims with current United States patent practices. Additionally, Claims 8, 9, and 15 have been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical error. Specifically, The designation (5I,17~~g~~) has been changed to (5~~a~~,17~~g~~) for compounds 147-157. Support for this amendment is found in the specification as originally filed at page 44, lines 18-30. The present amendments are fully supported by the as filed specification and claims. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

Applicants respectfully request the entrance of the foregoing amendments and an early and favorable action, as the application and claims are in condition for allowance.

If a telephonic communication with the Applicants' representative will advance the prosecution of the instant application, please telephone the representative indicated below. Applicants believe no additional fees are due but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this response to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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